

Northern District of Florida, and Richard Zenos Winget, to be United States Marshal for the District of Nevada, all of the Department of Justice.

Also, Committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 108th Congress and announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts: Senators Sessions (Chairman), Grassley, Specter, Craig, Cornyn, Schumer, Leahy, Feingold, and Durbin.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security: Senators Kyl (Chairman), Hatch, Specter, DeWine, Sessions, Chambliss, Feinstein, Kennedy, Biden, Kohl, and Edwards.

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights: Senators DeWine (Chairman), Hatch, Specter, Graham (SC), Chambliss, Kohl, Leahy, Feingold, and Edwards.

Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights: Senators Cornyn (Chairman), Kyl, Graham (SC), Craig, Chambliss, Feingold, Kennedy, Schumer, and Durbin.

Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship: Senators Chambliss (Chairman), Grassley, Kyl, DeWine, Sessions, Craig, Cornyn, Kennedy, Leahy, Feinstein, Schumer, Durbin, and Edwards.

Subcommittee on Crime, Corrections and Victims' Rights: Senators Graham (SC) (Chairman), Hatch, Grassley, Sessions, Craig, Cornyn, Biden, Kohl, Feinstein, Durbin, and Edwards.

MEDICARE REFORM: PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded hearings to examine proposals to improve and modernize the current Medicare system, focusing on prescription drugs benefits, regulatory and contractor reforms, and demographic and health care trends, after receiving testimony from Thomas A. Scully, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; and Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 40 public bills, H.R. 1372–1411; and 14 resolutions, H.J. Res. 41–42; H. Con. Res. 103–109, and H. Res. 153–157 were introduced. **Pages H2268–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2270–72**

Reports Filed: No reports were filed today.

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. David K. Stewart, Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Wayne, Michigan. **Page H2133**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of Wednesday, March 19 by yeas and nays vote of 373 yeas to 49 nays with 2 voting "present", Roll No. 75. **Pages H2133, H2135–36**

Expressing the Support and Appreciation of the Nation for the President and the Members of the Armed Forces: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 104, expressing the support and appreciation of the Nation for the President and the members of the Armed Forces who are participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom by yeas and nays vote of 392 yeas to 11 nays with 22 voting "present", Roll No. 83. **Pages H2229–51, H2262–63**

Earlier agreed by unanimous consent to consider the concurrent resolution. **Pages H2227–29**

Leave of Absence Granted to Representative Buyer of Indiana: On motion of Speaker Hastert, Representative Buyer was granted a leave of absence for an indefinite period of time on account of military service. Earlier, the Speaker read a letter from Representative Buyer wherein he stated that he had been called to active duty in the United States Army and that pending further orders, he requested immediate indefinite leave of the House of Representatives to accommodate his military duties. **Pages H2226–27**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act: Debated on March 19, H.R. 1307, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for members of the uniformed services in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence and to restore the tax exempt status of death gratuity payments to members of the uniformed services (agreed to by $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas and nays vote of 422 yeas with none voting "nay," Roll No. 76); and

Pages H2136–37

Urging that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Ruling on the Pledge of Allegiance be Overturned:

H. Res. 132, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *Newdow v. United States Congress* is inconsistent with the Supreme Court's interpretation of the first amendment and should be overturned (agreed to by $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 400 yeas to 7 nays with 15 voting "present," Roll No. 77).

Page H2137

Concurrent Resolution on the Budget: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 95, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013 by yeas-and-nays vote of 215 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 82.

Pages H2145–70, H2171–H2227, H2251–2262

Pursuant to the rule, the Nussle amendment in the nature of a substitute specified in part A of H. Rept. 108–44 was considered as adopted.

Rejected:

Hill ("Blue Dog Coalition") amendment in the nature of a substitute no. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–44 that sought to provide for spending at the levels contained in the President's budget as estimated by CBO; include reconciliation for a tax package with tax relief offset by deferring a portion of tax cuts for upper income taxpayers if the budget remains in deficit; directs a Medicare prescription drug benefit of \$400 billion; provides an increase in the debt limit of 150 billion but prohibits any further increase in the debt limit of more than \$100 billion until CBO certifies that the budget is on path to balance by 2009 (rejected by a recorded vote of 174 yeas to 254 noes, Roll No. 78);

Pages H2176–89

Toomey ("Republican Study Committee") amendment in the nature of a substitute no. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–44 that sought to balance the budget in four years; provide \$512 billion in tax relief over the next five years and \$1.6 trillion over the next 10 years, all under reconciliation; freezes total discretionary spending for one year and then permits growth at half of the rate of inflation for two years; and within the total level of discretionary spending, defense and homeland security are funded at the requested levels (rejected by a recorded vote of 80 yeas to 342 noes, Roll No. 79);

Pages H2189–H2204

Cummings ("Congressional Black Caucus and Progressive Caucus") amendment in the nature of a substitute no. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–44 that sought to freeze the tax cut; support defense funding commensurate with the President's request; provide \$300 billion for economic stimulus; provide for universal single payer healthcare program and \$528 billion for Medicare prescription drug benefit; and increase education funding by \$20 billion (re-

jected by recorded vote of 85 yeas to 340 noes, Roll No. 80);

Pages H2203–13

Spratt ("Democratic Alternative") amendment in the nature of a substitute no. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–44, as modified, that sought to restore \$98 billion of direct spending cuts and increase funding for homeland security, education, and other priorities; provide \$528 billion for a Medicare prescription drug benefit and allows increases to the extent offsets are identified; achieves budget balance in 2010 and adds \$573 billion less to the public debt (rejected by recorded vote of 192 yeas to 236 noes, Roll No. 81).

Pages H2213–26

Earlier agreed to the unanimous consent request made by Representative Spratt that the amendment no. 4 in H. Rept. 108–44 be considered as modified by the form that he placed at the desk.

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The House agreed to H. Res. 151, the rule that provided for consideration of the concurrent resolution by voice vote.

Pages H2138–45

Presidential Message—National Emergency re Iraq: Message wherein he reported that he has taken additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990, by exercising his statutory authority to confiscate and vest certain property of the Government of Iraq and its agencies, instrumentalities, or controlled entities—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 108–51).

Page H2264

Legislative Program: The Majority Leader announced the Legislative Program for the week of March 24.

Page H2263

Meeting Hour—Monday, March 24 and Tuesday, March 25: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 24 and agreed that when the House adjourns on Monday, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, for morning hour today.

Pages H2263–64

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, March 26.

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Recess: The House recessed at 11 a.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

Page H2138

Senate Message: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H2133.

Referrals: S. 153 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and S. 342 was held at the desk.

Page H2265

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yeas-and-nays votes and four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H2135–36,

H2136–37, H2137, H2189, H2203, H2212, H2226, H2261–62, H2262–63. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:11 a.m. on Friday, March 21.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies held a hearing on Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services. Testimony was heard from Eric Bost, Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, USDA.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE AND THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State and The Judiciary, and Related Agencies held a hearing on DEA and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Justice: John B. Brown III, Acting Administrator, DEA; and Bradley A. Buckles, Acting Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2004 Navy/Marine Corps Budget Overview. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Navy: H.T. Johnson, Acting Secretary; Adm. Vernon E. Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; and Gen. Michael W. Hagee, USMC, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on Department of Energy: Nuclear Waste Management and Disposal. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Energy: Jessie Roberson, Assistant Secretary, Energy, Environmental Management; and Margaret Chu, Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Secretary of Homeland Security. Testimony was heard from Tom Ridge, Secretary of Homeland Security.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing on Secretary of Health and Human Services. Testimony was heard from Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

VA, HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies held a hearing on Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. Testimony was heard from Ellen Lazar, Executive Director, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Testimony was heard from Henry Falk, Assistant Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Department of Health and Human Services.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on the 2004 fiscal year defense authorization budget request for Ballistic Missile Defense programs. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: E.C. “Pete” Aldridge, Jr., Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; J.D. Crouch, Assistant Secretary, International Security Policy; Lt. Gen. Ronald T. Kadish, USAF, Director, Missile Defense Agency; and Thomas P. Christie, Director, Operational Test and Evaluation.

MILITARY READINESS AND REVIEW—DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness continued hearings on the state of military readiness and review of the fiscal year 2004 Defense Authorization budget request. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: H.T. Johnson, Acting Secretary, Navy; Brig. Gen. Ronald S. Coleman, USMC, Assistant Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics (Facilities); Rear Adm. Christopher Cole, USN, Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Ashore Readiness Division; Rear Adm. Craig McDonald, USN, Deputy Director, Naval Reserve; Nelson F. Gibbs, Assistant Secretary, Air Force, Installations, Environment and Logistics; Maj. Gen. Earnest O. Robbins II, USAF, The Air Force Civil Engineer; Brig. Gen. David A. Brubaker, USAF, Deputy Director, Air National Guard; and Brig. Gen. William A. Rajczak, USAF, Deputy to the Chief, Air Force Reserve.